

# 2021 ECONOMIC REPORT

# CENTRAL

## REGION



The Central Region is comprised of 19 counties in the center of Missouri. This region is home to several cities including Columbia, Mexico, Rolla, Camdenton, Lebanon, and the state capital, Jefferson City.

The Central Region workforce has more than 306,400 employees, making up 11 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 51 percent of the workforce was female and 49 percent was male, which matches the Missouri average. The regional average unemployment rate in 2020 was 5.2 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Central Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 24 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 11 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 3 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, compared to 4 percent for Missouri.

In the Central Region, 6 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. was at 23 percent.

The Central Region has a slightly higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and nation. For the Central Region, 13 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.

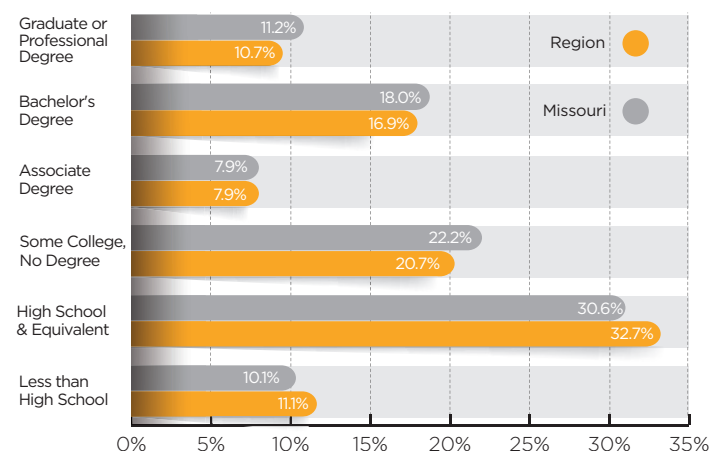
## Workforce Demographics

	Central MO	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	306,446	2,867,162	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	5.2%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	51%	51%	50%
Male	49%	49%	50%
Non-White	11%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	3%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	24%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	13%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	16%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	6%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	35%	37%	41%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

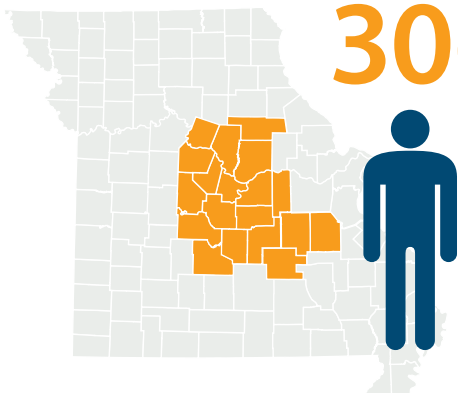
Educational attainment rates for the Central Region are slightly behind those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Thirty-five percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

## Educational Attainment



SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2019 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

**306,400**  
EMPLOYEES  
**11%**  
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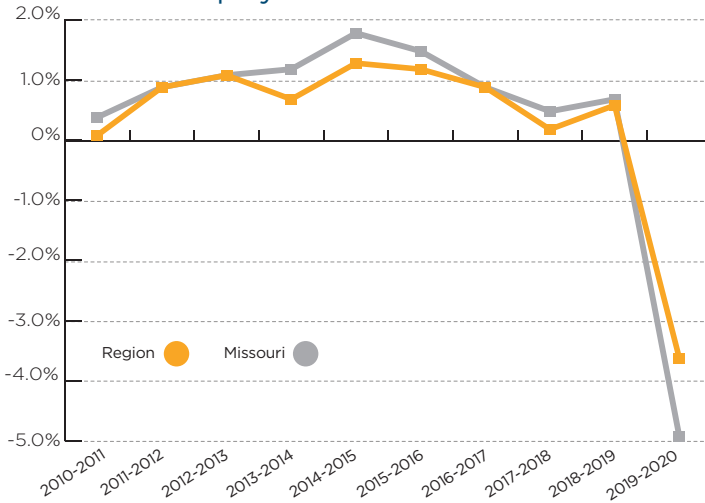


# CENTRAL REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Central Region averaged more than 272,200 jobs in 2020. The region lost 3.6 percent of its employment from 2019 to 2020. Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the Central Region averaged -0.5 percent annual growth for an overall decrease of 2.1 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment declined by 2.9 percent.

### Central Employment Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: MERIC, QCEW

*Health Care and Social Assistance* is the largest industry sector in the Central Region, with over 43,000 jobs in 2020 and an annual growth rate of 0.9 percent since 2016. The *Retail Trade* industry continues to be one of the largest employing industries in the region, even though the industry has lost over 2,400 jobs since 2016.

The *Finance and Insurance* industry added the most jobs, with a gain of over 2,000 jobs since 2016. *Educational Services* is the third largest industry, even though it has been losing employment, with a decrease of over 2,000 jobs since 2016. *Manufacturing* is the fourth largest industry and has been growing at an annual rate of 1 percent from 2016 to 2020.

### Central Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2016	Employment 2020	Net Change	2016-2020 Empl. CAGR	2019 Annual Wages
Health Care & Social Assistance	41,777	43,329	1,552	0.9%	\$46,308
Retail Trade	34,230	31,778	-2,452	-1.8%	\$29,316
Educational Services	30,690	28,651	-2,039	-1.7%	\$45,768
Manufacturing	25,815	26,880	1,065	1.0%	\$47,076
Public Administration	26,679	25,643	-1,036	-1.0%	\$41,028
Accommodation & Food Services	26,572	24,726	-1,846	-1.8%	\$19,176
Construction	12,701	13,430	729	1.4%	\$48,996
Finance & Insurance	9,097	11,173	2,076	5.3%	\$71,064
Administrative Support & Waste	10,894	10,243	-651	-1.5%	\$33,444
Professional, Science & Tech. Servs.	9,698	8,738	-960	-2.6%	\$58,992
Wholesale Trade	7,749	7,821	72	0.2%	\$60,204
Transportation & Warehousing	6,852	7,592	740	2.6%	\$38,340

SOURCE: LEHD-QWI, 2016-2020 2ND QUARTER

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The Central Region has higher concentrations in *Administration of Human Resource Programs*, *Gasoline Stations*, *National Security and International Affairs*, and *Administration of Economic Programs*, just to name a few.



HIGHEST 2020  
LQ 3.2

## ADMINISTRATION OF HUMAN RESOURCE PROGRAMS

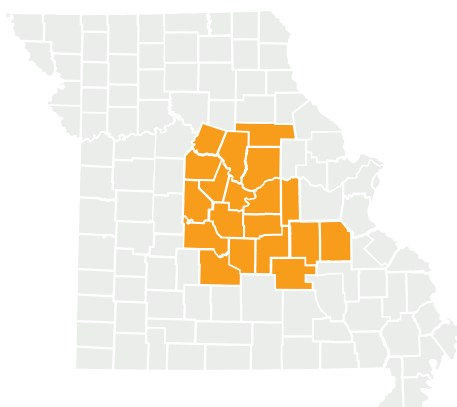
### 2020 Central Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Administration of Human Resource Programs	3,722	3.2
Gasoline Stations	3,702	2.8
National Security & International Affairs	2,440	2.8
Administration of Economic Programs	2,585	2.7
Justice, Public Order, & Safety Activities	5,792	2.1
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	7,893	2.1
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,100	2.0
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4,910	1.8
General Merchandise Stores	7,407	1.7
Sporting Goods, Hobby & Other Stores	1,172	1.7
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	8,152	1.7
Wood Product Manufacturing	955	1.7
Bldg. Material & Garden Equip. Dealers	3,246	1.7
Animal Production & Aquaculture	622	1.6
Accommodation	3,395	1.6

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

# CENTRAL REGION

Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the Central Region will be in *Food Services and Drinking Places, Hospitals, Ambulatory Health Care Services, Social Assistance, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, Administrative and Support Services, and Nursing and Residential Care Facilities.*



## Central Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2018 Estimated	2028 Projected	2018-2028 Numeric	2018-2028 Percent
Food Services & Drinking Places	24,586	29,022	4,436	18.0%
Hospitals	15,942	18,322	2,380	14.9%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	10,571	12,169	1,598	15.1%
Social Assistance	7,412	8,840	1,428	19.3%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	7,961	9,285	1,324	16.6%
Administrative & Support Services	9,307	10,432	1,125	12.1%
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	8,348	9,391	1,043	12.5%
Nonstore Retailers	2,329	3,320	991	42.6%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, orgs.	7,315	8,290	975	13.3%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	4,140	4,730	590	14.3%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimate labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

**Now** jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Cashiers, Combined Food Preparation and Service Workers, and Waiters and Waitresses* which lead the way in total openings. *Personal Care Aides, Office and Administrative Support Workers, and Taxi Drivers and Chauffeurs* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

**Next** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Cooks, and Nursing Assistants* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Loan Interviewers and Clerks, Cooks, and Respiratory Therapists* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

**Later** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations, *Registered Nurses, General and Operations Managers, and Accountants and Auditors* will have the most openings. *Software Developers, Systems Software, and Software Developers, Applications* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

## Central Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2020-2021 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

# CENTRAL REGION

## Central Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
<b>NOW</b>							
Cashiers	8,904	8,822	-82	791	881	1,664	\$19,795 ★
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	7,201	8,872	1,671	641	790	1,598	\$19,466 ★
Waiters and Waitresses	5,803	6,488	685	426	753	1,247	\$19,014
Retail Salespersons	8,704	8,409	-295	492	758	1,220	\$23,079 ★
Personal Care Aides	4,969	6,631	1,662	429	380	975	\$22,631 ★
<b>NEXT</b>							
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	8,708	7,992	-716	428	507	863	\$30,213 ★
Cooks, Restaurant	3,682	4,735	1,053	223	372	700	\$22,716
Nursing Assistants	4,269	4,782	513	243	264	558	\$23,924 ★
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	3,550	3,836	286	130	228	387	\$32,130 ★
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	3,189	3,341	152	134	237	386	\$36,736 ★
<b>LATER</b>							
Registered Nurses	6,865	7,905	1,040	205	189	498	\$61,756 ★
General and Operations Managers	4,696	5,158	462	103	324	473	\$66,241 ★
Accountants and Auditors	2,331	2,498	167	68	157	242	\$60,640 ★
Secondary School Teachers	2,963	2,987	24	83	126	211	\$44,498
Child, Family, and School Social Workers	1,721	1,827	106	52	121	184	\$35,746

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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[meric.mo.gov](http://meric.mo.gov) or [dhewd.mo.gov](http://dhewd.mo.gov)



This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report.

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